MARVEL

BENDIS
ASRAR
BEREDO

040

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BORN WITH GENETIC MUTATIONS THAT GIVE THEM ABILITIES BEYOND THOSE OF NORMAL HUMANS, MUTANTS ARE THE NEXT STAGE IN EVOLUTION. AS SUCH, THEY ARE FEARED AND HATED BY HUMANITY. BUT A GROUP OF MUTANTS KNOWN AS THE X-MEN FIGHT FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN MUTANTS AND HUMANKIND. BUT NOT ALL MUTANTS SEE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AS A REALITY.

THE ORIGINAL X-MEN—JEAN GREY, CYCLOPS, ICEMAN, ANGEL, AND BEAST—WERE BROUGHT FORWARD IN TIME IN AN ATTEMPT TO SHINE A LIGHT ON THE ERRORS OF THE PRESENT-DAY X-MEN. UNABLE TO RETURN TO THE PAST, THEY HAVE TAKEN UP RESIDENCE AT THE NEW XAVIER SCHOOL ALONG WITH NEW TEAMMATE X-23. RECENTLY THE YOUNG SCOTT SUMMERS LEFT THE TEAM TO EXPLORE SPACE WITH HIS FATHER, CORSAIR.

SINCE ARRIVING IN THE PRESENT, THE ORIGINAL X-MEN HAVE BEEN HUNTED, JAILED, DIVIDED, AND SPURNED BY THEIR OWN PEOPLE. THEY HAVE TRAVELED THE COSMOS, BEEN TRAPPED IN ALTERNATE DIMENSIONS, AND FACED DOWN THE THREAT OF DEATH AGAIN AND AGAIN. DESPITE ALL THIS, THEY HAVE REMAINED STRONG, AND IT SEEMS THIS "PRESENT" IS FINALLY BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A PLACE WHERE THEY BELONG.

THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE COSMICALLY POWERED BLACK VORTEX MAY HAVE SERVED TO REUNITE SCOTT WITH HIS TEAM, BUT IT UNDOUBTEDLY LEFT ITS EFFECTS ON THE YOUNG TEAMMATES. THOUGH HOW DEEPLY THEY WERE EACH AFFECTED IS STILL LEFT TO BE SEEN.

IT'S A TIME OF NEW BEGINNINGS FOR THE ALL-NEW X-MEN...AND IT IS UP TO THEM TO DETERMINE WHAT THEY DO WITH THE OPPORTUNITY.

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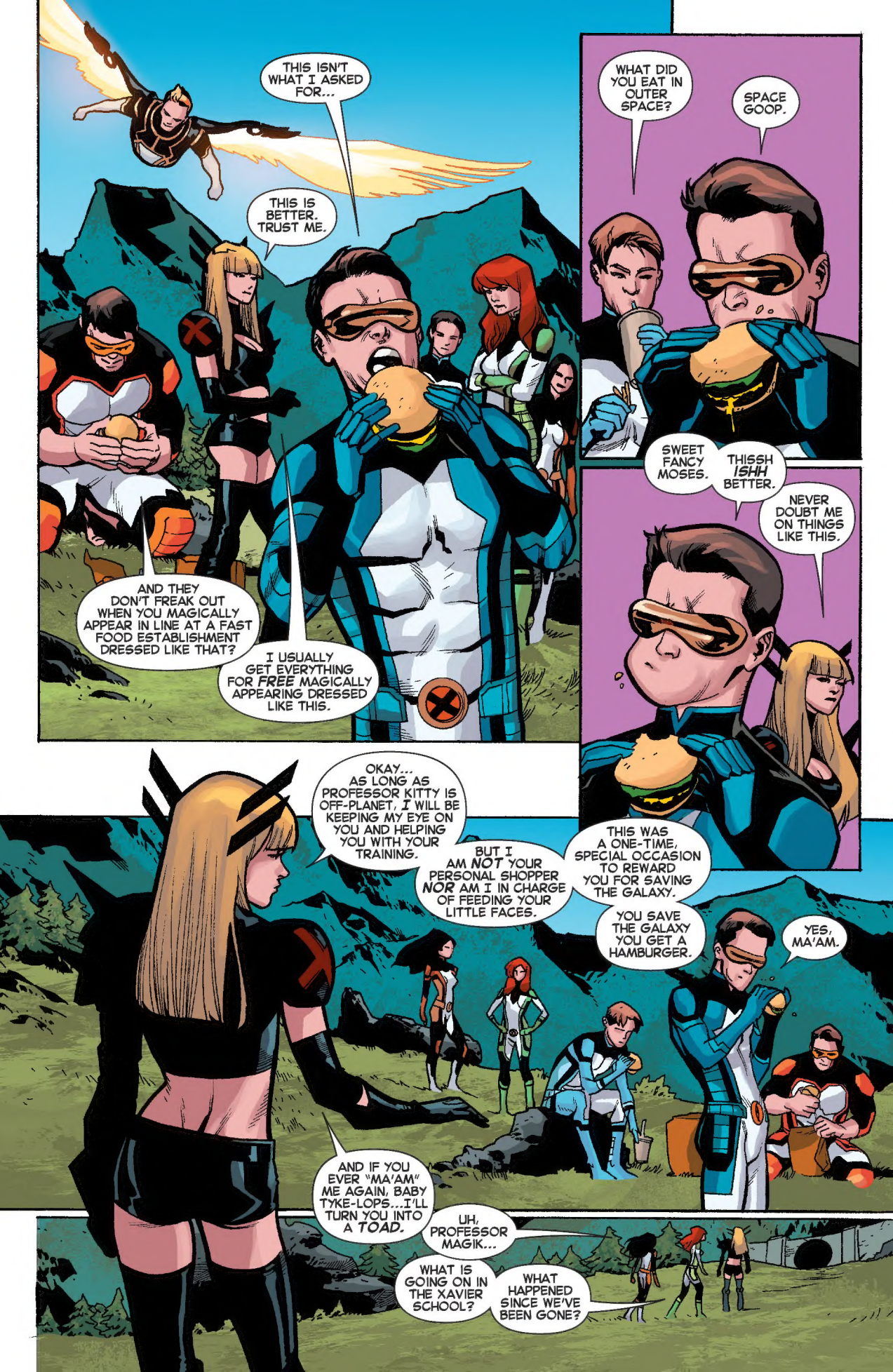
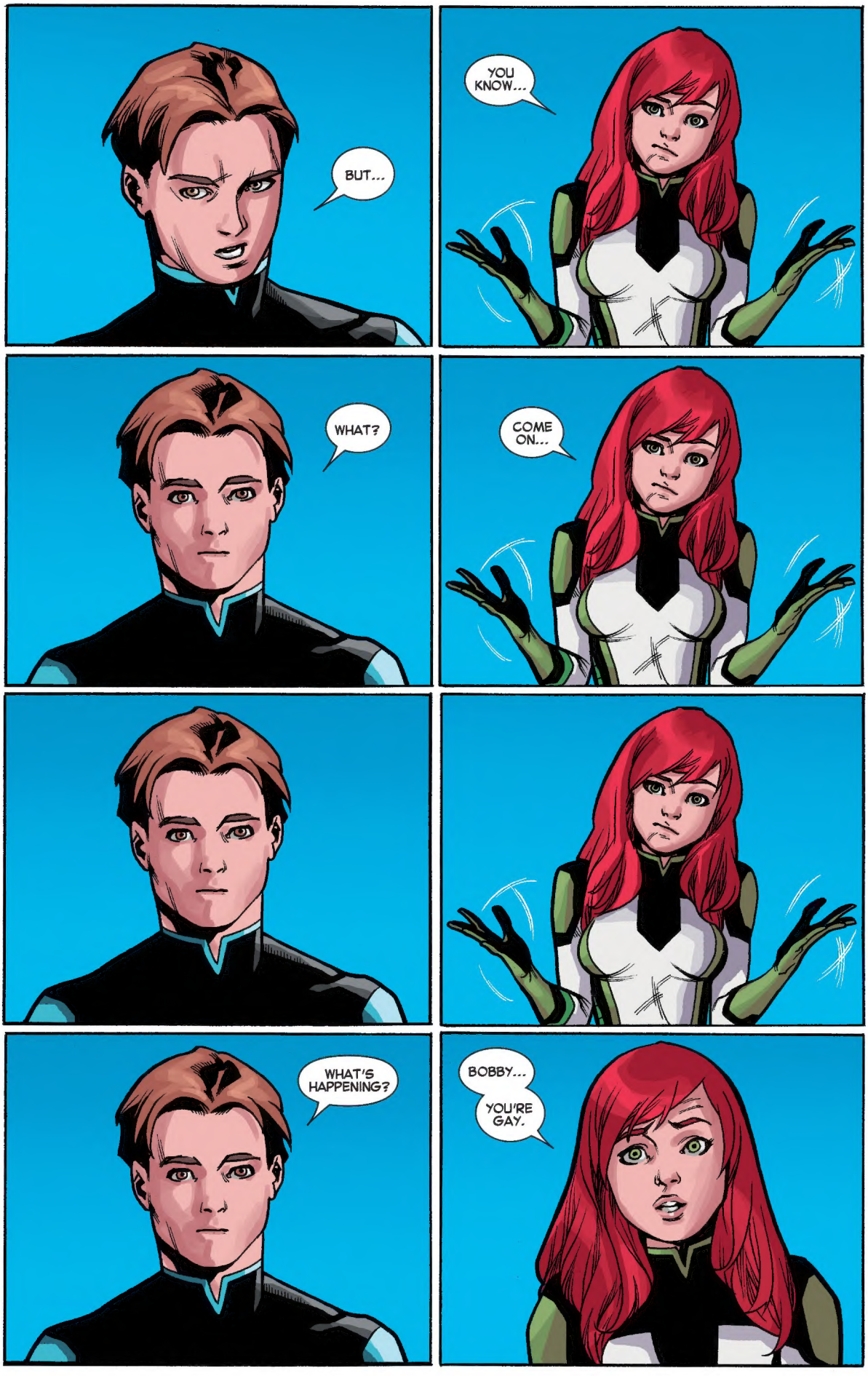
UTOPIA ISLAND.
FORMER HOME OF THE X-MEN, SAN FRANCISCO BAY.
AR
WOW!
THIS PLACE LOOKS LIKE TOTAL CRAP!
SLOW IT DOWN. WE'RE NOT IN ANY HURRY.
YOU WEREN'T KIDDING. IT IS TOTALLY DONE.
YUP.
WE'RE NOT TO ASSUME THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN PICKED OVER BY S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THE AVENGERS?
WHEN? ON THEIR DAY OFF?
MY GUY SAYS THIS PLACE FELL DOWN AND NO ONE HAS LOOKED AT IT SINCE.
THE X-MEN JUST LEFT IT?
THEY DON'T SEEM ALL THAT MATERIALISTIC.
BUT THE BLACK MARKET ON STUFF LIKE THIS IS CRAZY HUNGRY.
WE'RE GOING TO RETIRE OFF OF THIS &$@#. I CAN FEEL IT IN MY BONES.
CRICKLE
UH...
...DID YOU HEAR THAT?
MIGHT BE A DOG OR A--

BOOM
AGH!
OW!
%&$@ YOU, MATE!
YOU-- YOU COULD HAVE JUST A-A-A-ASKED US TO LEAVE.
THIS COUNTS.
IT DOESN'T COUNT.
NOT YOUR CALL. WE HAD A DEAL. ALL OF US. I SAY THIS COUNTS.
%&$@#&@ MUTANTS!
OKAY, THAT COUNTS.

THE NEW XAVIER SCHOOL. LOCATION SECRET. TODAY.
EARTH.
LET'S HEAR IT FOR EARTH.
YAY, EARTH!
IT IS GOOD TO BE HOME.
OH MY GOD!
HOW GREAT DOES THIS FEEL?
IT'S AN INTERESTING PHENOMENON.
WE WERE OUT IN DEEP SPACE, FAR FROM HOME, WONDERING IF WE WERE EVER GOING TO MAKE IT BACK.
SO CLOSE TO TRUE COSMIC FORCES. SOME OF US TRANSFORMED BY THE EXPERIENCE.
AND IT SEEMS AS IF, AFTER ALL OF THAT, OUR PHYSICAL BODIES ACTUALLY NEED A CONNECTION TO OUR HOME PLANET.
WE NEEDED TO RECONNECT TO IT.
WOW.
WAY TO RUIN THE MOMENT, HANK.
I THOUGHT I WAS ACCENTUATING IT.
AND YET...NO.
BOO.
PROFESSOR MAGIK.
DID YOU BRING IT?


THIS ISN'T WHAT I ASKED FOR...
THIS IS BETTER. TRUST ME.
AND THEY DON'T FREAK OUT WHEN YOU MAGICALLY APPEAR IN LINE AT A FAST FOOD ESTABLISHMENT DRESSED LIKE THAT?
I USUALLY GET EVERYTHING FOR FREE MAGICALLY APPEARING DRESSED LIKE THIS.
WHAT DID YOU EAT IN OUTER SPACE?
SPACE GOOP.
SWEET FANCY MOSES.
THISSH ISHH BETTER.
NEVER DOUBT ME ON THINGS LIKE THIS.
OKAY... AS LONG AS PROFESSOR KITTY IS OFF-PLANET, I WILL BE KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU AND HELPING YOU WITH YOUR TRAINING.
BUT I AM NOT YOUR PERSONAL SHOPPER NOR AM I IN CHARGE OF FEEDING YOUR LITTLE FACES.
THIS WAS A ONE-TIME, SPECIAL OCCASION TO REWARD YOU FOR SAVING THE GALAXY.
YOU SAVE THE GALAXY YOU GET A HAMBURGER.
YES, MA'AM.
AND IF YOU EVER "MA'AM" ME AGAIN, BABY TYKE-LOPS...I'LL TURN YOU INTO A TOAD.
UH, PROFESSOR MAGIK...
WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE XAVIER SCHOOL?
WHAT HAPPENED SINCE WE'VE BEEN GONE?

I'M GOING TO ATTEND TO THAT RIGHT NOW.
SHOULD WE STAY OUT HERE?
IT'S A NICE DAY.
MAYBE WE CAN HELP.
IF YOU CAN, YOU WILL.
I SALUTE OUR NEW PROFESSOR'S UNBELIEVABLE HOTNESS!
BOBBY!
WHAT?
UM...
...COME OVER HERE...
WHAT?
WHY DO YOU SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?
WHAT?
ABOUT MAGIK'S HOTNESS? BECAUSE SHE IS.
NO, I KNOW.
AND BELIEVE ME, SHE KNOWS.
BUT...


BUT...
YOU KNOW...
WHAT?
COME ON...
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
BOBBY...
YOU'RE GAY.

WHAT?
WHY--WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT?
BECAUSE I'M A PSYCHIC.
I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS.
DON'T-- HEY, D-DON'T DO THAT.
SORRY.
BUT--
STOP!
YOU'RE THINKING IT RIGHT NOW.
STOP IT.
I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING.
I'M NOT--
YOU ARE.
I'M THINKING IT BECAUSE YOU KEEP SAYING IT.
I SAID IT BECAUSE YOU WERE THINKING IT.
SHH!
NO!
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME OR TO ANYONE ELSE, IT'S JUST--
SSHH!

HUH.
WONDER WHAT THAT IS ABOUT.
I CHOOSE TO EAT.
BOBBY...
BUT MY OLDER SELF ISN'T.
WE'VE MET HIM.
I KNOW.
SO...
BUT YOU--
STOP.
ARE.
WHY EVERYONE IS SO IN LOVE WITH YOU, I HAVE NO IDEA.
YEAH, BECAUSE YOU'RE GAY.
HEY!
TOO SOON?
WAAAAAAAY TOO SOON.

HOW CAN MY OLDER SELF NOT BE, BUT I AM?
I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S A UNIQUE SITUATION.
HOW?
ASK HIM.
BECAUSE MAYBE HE COULDN'T HANDLE BEING A MUTANT AND GAY IN A SOCIETY THAT HAD ISSUES WITH BOTH?
AND ONE IS EASIER TO "PUT AWAY" THAN THE OTHER?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT HE DATED WOMEN.
NOT WELL.
HE DATED KITTY PRYDE!
AND NOW SHE NO LONGER LIVES ON THE PLANET EARTH.
MAYBE I'M BI.
THEY SAY EVERYBODY IS.
THEY DO?
BUT I THINK YOU'RE MORE...FULL GAY.
YEAH...
...I KNOW.

I THOUGHT-- I REALLY THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY.
I KNOW.
OR JUST NOT--I DON'T KNOW.
SORRY I YELLED AT YOU.
THAT'S ONE OF THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT BEING HERE AS OPPOSED TO BACK WHERE WE CAME FROM.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE HERE CARES.
YOU THINK?
NOT LIKE BACK THEN.
THAT'S PROBABLY TRUE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO WITH ALL OF THIS YET.
IT'S NO ONE'S BUSINESS UNTIL YOU SAY IT IS.
EXCEPT FOR, IT SEEMS, YOU.
(NOSY BITCH.)
THANK GOD FOR ME.
YOU OVERCOMPENSATING DORK.
WE NEVER HUG.
BECAUSE YOU ARE SO SO SO COLD.
SERIOUSLY.
SORRY.
HEY, DO YOU THINK ANGEL IS GAY?
NO.
OH, WELL.
HE'S TOO PRETTY, ANYHOW.
I KNOW.
IT'S A LITTLE ANNOYING.
TYKE-LOPS.
I KNOW, I ALMOST DIED WHEN SHE SAID THAT.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER.
FLOATING WORLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE U.N. PEACEKEEPING TASK FORCE.
PRESENT LOCATION: 1,000 FEET OVER LONDON, ENGLAND.

COMMANDER HILL, WE HAVE A SITUATION!

PLEASE DON'T SAY IT'S MUTANT-RELATED PLEASE DON'T SAY IT'S MUTANT-RELATED PLEASE DON'T SAY IT'S MUTANT-RELATED

THESE IMAGES REVEAL UNIDENTIFIED ACTIVITY AT THE RUINS OF UTOPIA.

THE ENERGY SIGNATURE ISN'T IN OUR REGISTRY.

THUNK

IT COULD BE UNAUTHORIZED MUTANT ACTIVITY OR JUST AN ANOMALY?

SHOULD WE SEND A TASK FORCE TO THE ISLAND?

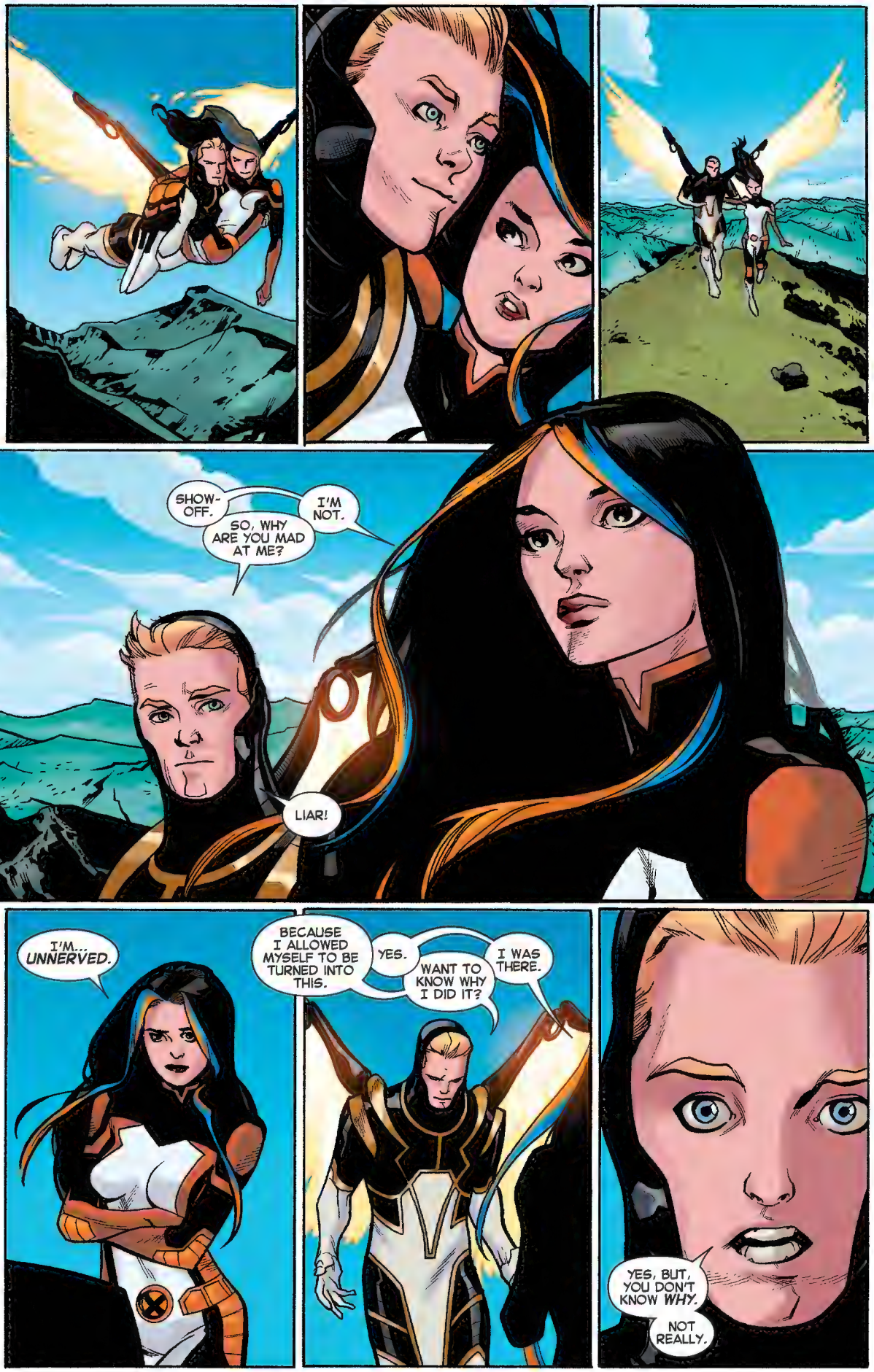
THUNK

MA'AM?

THUNK

WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THAT NICKNAME STICK.
I WOULD LOVE THAT.
PEACHES, SCOTT.
EVERYTHING OKAY WITH YOU TWO?
HEY, X-MEN!
HOW'RE THE NEW WINGS, WARREN?
FEELING GREAT.
I STILL WANT SOME BLOOD AND URINE.
WELL THEN I KNOW WHAT TO GET YOU FOR CHRISTMAS.
WARREN, YOU'VE BEEN COSMICALLY TRANSFORMED.
THERE'S SO MUCH WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE BECOME.
I KNOW, I KNOW...
...I WAS TEASING.
YOU REMEMBER TEASING, HANK?
HEY LAURA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?
WISHING I HAD NOT JUST EATEN WHAT I JUST ATE.
COME.
FLY.
NO.
COME.
COME ON...
NO.

ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
NO.
LIAR.
WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?
STAY TUNED...


SHOW-OFF.
I'M NOT.
SO, WHY ARE YOU MAD AT ME?
LIAR!
I'M... UNNERVED.
BECAUSE I ALLOWED MYSELF TO BE TURNED INTO THIS.
YES.
WANT TO KNOW WHY I DID IT?
I WAS THERE.
YES, BUT, YOU DON'T KNOW WHY.
NOT REALLY.

BECAUSE I CAME HERE FROM THE PAST, GOT STUCK HERE, AND I GOT A REAL GOOD LOOK AT THE NIGHTMARE THAT MY LIFE WILL BECOME.

AND THAT IS NOT EXAGGERATION. THAT IS *FACT*.

THE STORY OF *ME* TAKES A HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE TURN SOMEWHERE DOWN THE LINE.

WHILE EVERYONE WAS FOCUSED ON JEAN AND SCOTT, I DID A LITTLE DIGGING INTO ME.

AND IT'S SO BAD.

FIRST NO ONE WOULD ACTUALLY *TALK* TO ME ABOUT ME, WHICH WAS UNNERVING... THEN I MET ME.

I ACTUALLY *MET* MYSELF.

AND IT SCARED THE LIVING HELL OUT OF ME.

SO I SAID TO MYSELF, THE FIRST LEGITIMATE CHANCE I HAVE AT MAKING ME DIFFERENT...

...THE FIRST CHANCE I GET...I WOULD TAKE.

AND I TOOK IT.

THIS-- THIS IS MY *DO-OVER*.

CAN YOU RELATE TO THIS, AT ALL?

AND I STILL LOOK GOOD.

AND THE NEW ME INCLUDES ME SAYING HOW I FEEL AND NOT LETTING MOMENTS GO BY...

...AND NOW THAT MEANS ME SAYING I THINK I LOVE YOU.

OOPS.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I *WAS*.

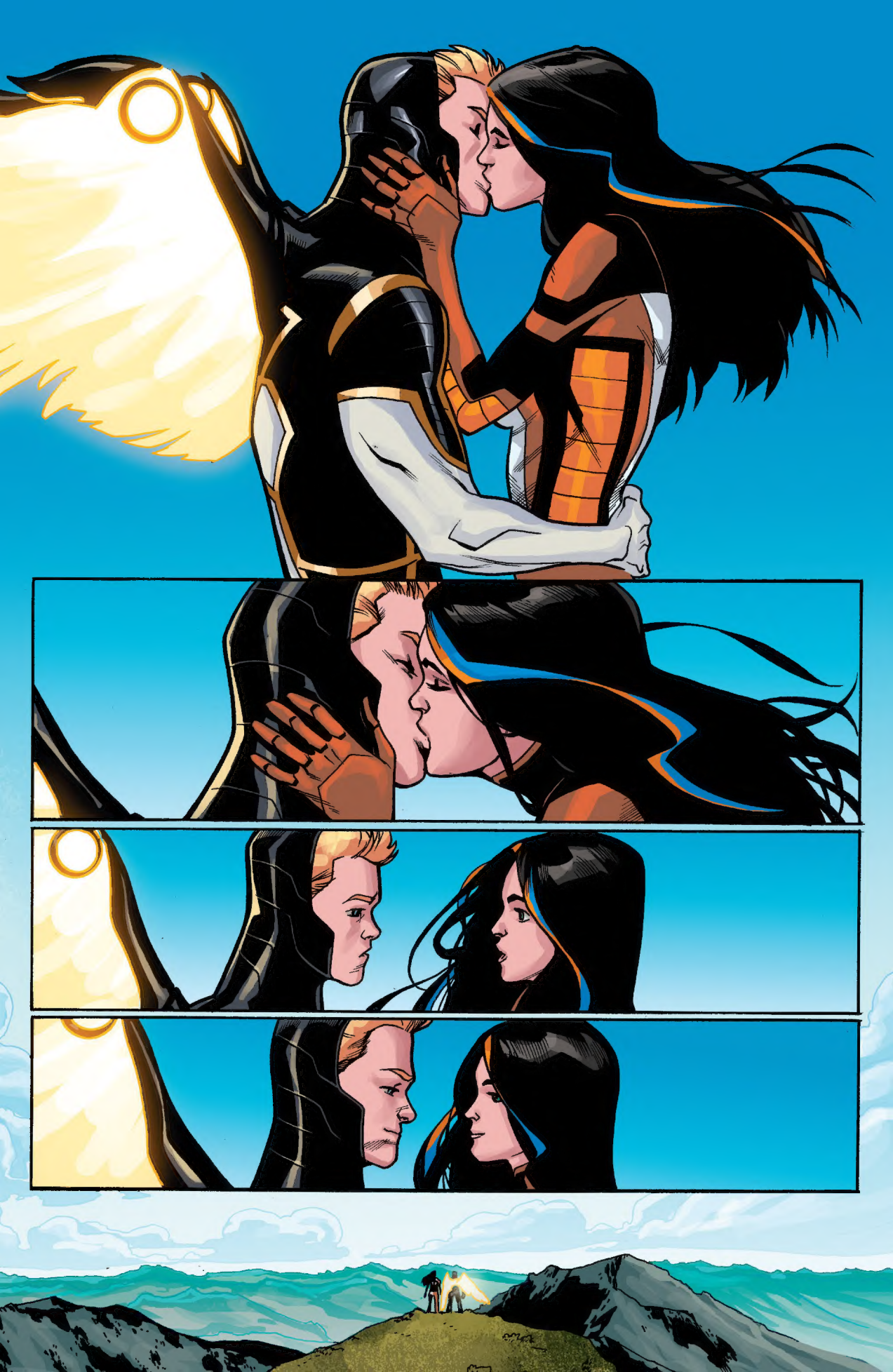
YEAH, I DO.

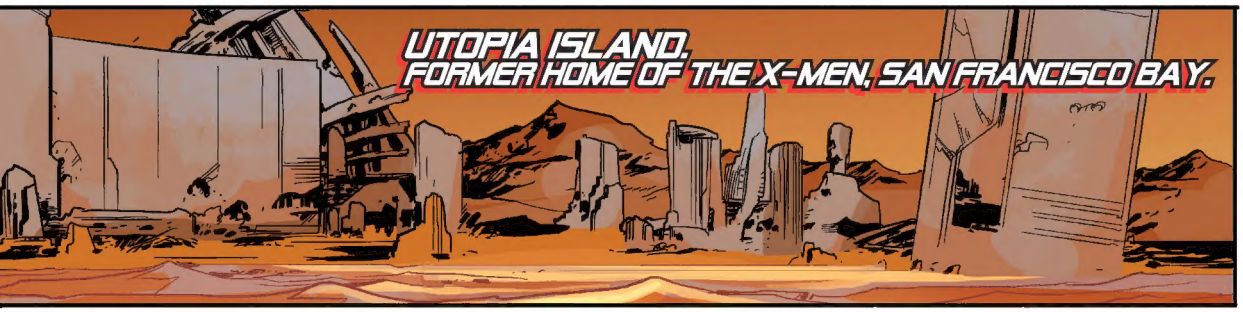
THE HELL YOU WERE BORN INTO...ALL THAT AWFUL STUFF THAT WAS DONE TO YOU. INSTEAD OF WALLOWING IN IT, LIKE JUST ABOUT *ANYBODY* ELSE WOULD...

...YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD TO BE BETTER. YOU'RE *TRYING*.

I LOVE *YOU*.

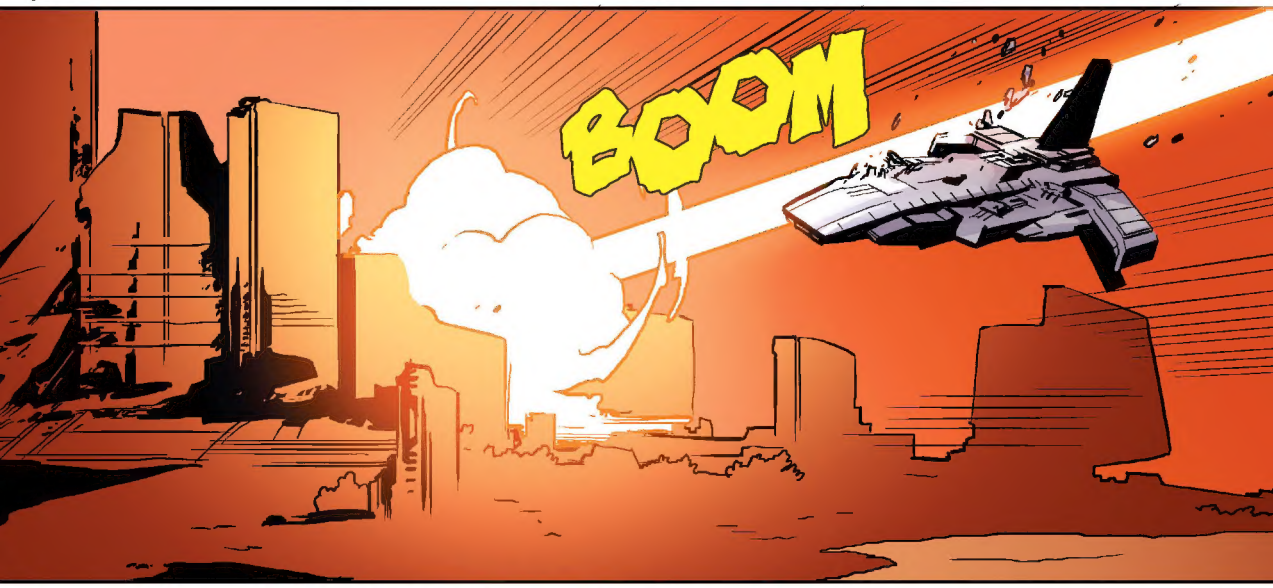
AND I LOVE THAT.

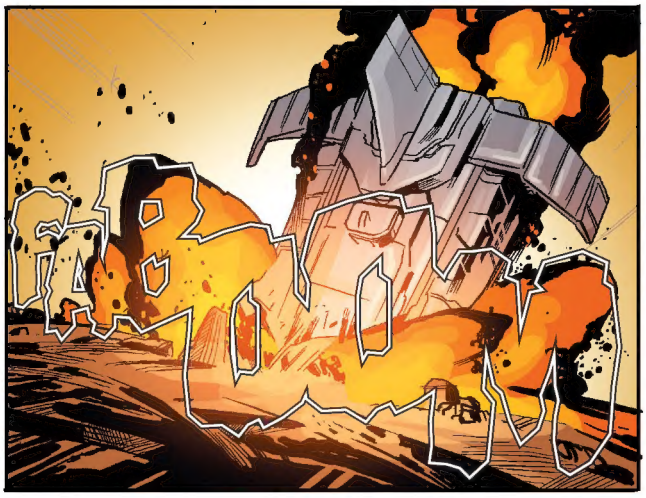



UTOPIA ISLAND,
FORMER HOME OF THE X-MEN, SAN FRANCISCO BAY.

MULTIPLE ENERGY READINGS.

MULTIPLE ENERGY SHIELD READINGS AS WELL.
SOMEONE'S TRYING TO BLOCK SOMETHING FROM SOMEONE.
S.H.I.E.L.D. COMMAND, THESE READINGS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE. ADVISE?
ALPHA SQUAD. TAKE TO THE BEACH AND TRY TO MAKE CONTACT.
ALPHA TEAM WILL TAKE TO THE--


BOOM


FAPOOM

I TOLD YOU.
YOU DID.
DOES THIS COUNT?
OH YEAH...

THIS PROVES IT.
THEY WON'T LEAVE US ALONE...
...THEY WILL NEVER LEAVE US ALONE.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT FOR IT.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE: